

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 207418 TOSEC 220019

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 207418 TOSEC 220019

NODIS

CHEROKEE, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HABIB AND ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

AGS: PFOR, UR, IS, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ISRAELI NAVAL CHIEF TO SIXTH FLEET

REF: TEL AVIV 5715

WHITE HOUSE PASS TO EAGLEBURGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. WE ARE REPEATING REFTEL AND THIS MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY WHO TODAY IS STILL IN KANSAS CITY, AS IS EAGLEBURGER. MEANWHILE, PENDING ANY GUIDANCE SECRETARY MAY WISH TO SEND YOU, WE ARE INCLINED TO LET ADMIRAL TELEM'S VISIT TO SIXTH FLEET GO AHEAD AS PLANNED. WE RECOGNIZE PROBABILITY THAT THERE WILL BE PUBLICITY ABOUT THE VISIT AND THAT IT COULD BE EXPLOITED BY SOVIETS IN EFFORT TO PROVE COLLUSION WITH ALLEGED ISRAELI BLOCKADE. ON

OTHER HAND, LAST MINUTE DEFERRAL OF ADMIRAL'S VISIT MIGHT VERY WELL ALSO BE PUBLICIZED, AND THIS COULD BE MIS-INTERPRETED AS EVIDENCE WE WERE BACKING DOWN FROM TOUGH

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POSITION WE TOOK IN REJECTING EARLIER SOVIET CHARGES OF

COLLUSION IN THEIR RECENT NOTE. WE DO NOT THINK THIS
WOULD BE A DESIRABLE SIGNAL TO SEND AT THIS TIME.

2. WITH RESPECT TO AMOCO DRILLING OPERATION, WE
UNDERSTAND FROM AMOCO NEW YORK OFFICE THAT THEY HAVE
DECIDED NOT TO SEND SHIP TO THE DISPUTED SITE FOR THE
TIME BEING. WHILE WE NONETHELESS HAVE CONTINUING ISSUE
TO PURSUE WITH ISRAELIS, IN THE ABSENCE OF A SPECIFIC
INCIDENT OF HARASSMENT WE ARE INCLINED NOT TO MAKE
CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GULF PROBLEM AND THE ADMIRAL'S
VISIT. ROBINSON

SECRET

NNN

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